



ANNOUNCING

The Federal Law Enforcement Training Center's New Cheltenham Training Facility

On October 23, 2000, President William J. Clinton signed Public Law 106-346 authorizing the “establishment and operation of a metropolitan area law enforcement training center for the Department of the Treasury, other federal agencies, the United States Capitol Police, and the Washington, D.C., Metropolitan Police Department. . . the principal function of the center shall be for firearms and vehicle operation requalification; . . . [and] training for other state and local law enforcement agencies on a space-available basis.” The law directed the Secretary of the Treasury to identify Federal property in the National Capitol Region that is in the surplus property inventory of the General Services Administration’s . . . that is appropriate for use for such a center.” Congress appropriated \$25,000,000 of “Acquisition, Construction, Improvements, and Related Expenses (ACRE)” for the “design and construction of a metropolitan law enforcement training center, [which includes] firearms and vehicle requalification facilities.”¹

On November 9, 2000, the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) Director requested the General Services Administration (GSA) transfer the former Naval Communications Detachment in Cheltenham, Maryland to the Department of the Treasury, FLETC, to satisfy Congress’s mandate “to establish and operate a metropolitan area law enforcement training center.”

On May 10, 2001, GSA transferred the 247.44 acre Naval Communications Detachment in Cheltenham, Maryland, and its “483,670 square feet of space in 61 buildings (as excess property), to the Department of the Treasury, FLETC, with the

¹ Public Law 106-346, “Department of Transportation and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2001,” 106th Congress, 2d ses., (Washington, D.C., October 23, 2000).

provision that FLETC comply “with the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.” The Department of the Navy submitted the formal “Transfer and Acceptance of Military Real Property” to the FLETC Director on May 29, 2001. On June 14, 2001, FLETC Director, W. Ralph Basham, signed the “Acceptance of Military Real Property.”

During June and July 2001, the new FLETC site director and facilities operations specialist were hired. Since that time an additional 20 personnel have been hired to facilitate the facility’s renovation, new construction and design and implementation of training programs. By the end of FY 2004, there will be over 52 full-time employees at the new FLETC Cheltenham training facility.

During FY 2002, 11 existing Cheltenham buildings were renovated to create a United States Capitol Police Training Academy, FLETC administrative offices, classrooms, computer laboratories, simulators, and office space for partner agencies. Also during this time, architectural engineering and design was completed for a 153,226 square foot, 108-point indoor firing range, a 1.2-mile driver training range, a visitors center and two security entry points. Construction of the firearms range and the driving range is anticipated to begin during July 2002, with completion by December 2003.

The new FLETC Cheltenham training facility is expected to be totally completed by FY 2004. This facility will provide state-of-the-art educational and conference facilities, including several multi-purpose classrooms for leadership and management training and specialized classrooms for computer training, firearms training simulators and driver training simulators. These facilities will provide law enforcement management and specialty training for federal, state, and local law enforcement officers seeking to broaden and formalize the knowledge and skills associated with contemporary law enforcement responsibilities.

The FLETC Cheltenham facility will continue the FLETC tradition of excellence by providing relevant, value-added, world-class training with top rated instructors, course materials and facilities. FLETC believes our core competency in law enforcement training and our integrated, operationally relevant instruction provide the ideal preparation for the rapidly changing world that characterizes today’s law enforcement responsibilities. Participants in FLETC programs at Cheltenham, MD will return to their respective organizations with new and refined skills and knowledge that are immediately applicable.

Cheltenham Has A Proud Tradition of Service to the United States

The new FLETC at Cheltenham, MD has a long and rich tradition of serving our nation. The FLETC Cheltenham facility was first established as a U.S. Navy communications station in 1938. Several historic events took place at the Cheltenham facility. For example, on December 4, 1941, Navy personnel located in the Cheltenham headquarters building intercepted the fateful “Winds Execute” message sent to the Japanese embassy in Washington, D.C. which indicated Japan’s intentions to break

relations with the United States.² Three days later, on December 7, 1941, Building 1 at the Cheltenham facility received the first notification of Japanese warplanes attacking U.S. facilities in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. In addition, during the 1962 Cuban missile crisis, Building 31 on the Cheltenham facility served as the U.S. military's command and control center.

As the Navy's operational requirements for the Cheltenham facility decreased, the operational training requirements for metropolitan Washington, D.C. based law enforcement agencies' increased. Because of increasing community concerns and more stringent environmental requirements, several metropolitan Washington, D.C. area law enforcement agencies' firing ranges were closed. However, demand for firearms requalifications increased. This training shortfall was recognized in November 1999, when Treasury Under Secretary for Law Enforcement commissioned a Working Group to examine the firearms requalifications needs of law enforcement agencies in the metropolitan Washington, D.C. area. Some 29 law enforcement agencies working together on this Working Group determined there was a commonality of need for improved firearms range requalification capabilities in the Washington, D.C. area. The volume of training and the requirement for accessible, safe, and environmentally sound firearms requalification facilities does not exist elsewhere in the United States. Predicated on the volume of firearms and pursuit driver training requirements that exists in the metropolitan Washington, D.C. area, the Working Group recommended that a consolidated training center be established in the metropolitan Washington area to provide consistent, high quality training programs in state-of-the-art facilities for federal law enforcement officers. In that the FLETC is recognized as, and is, the most effective law enforcement training organization in the world, FLETC was directed by Congress to establish and operate a metropolitan Washington D.C. area requalification law enforcement training center for the Department of the Treasury, other federal agencies, the United States Capitol Police, and the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan Police Department.

On September 28, 2000, Congress enacted Title V of Public Law 106-346, which appropriated \$25 million to the FLETC to establish and operate a metropolitan Washington D.C. area law enforcement training center. Additionally, Congress directed FLETC to locate surplus U.S. Government properties in the metropolitan Washington D.C. area to establish and maintain a metropolitan area law enforcement training center. FLETC identified the former Naval Communications Detachment at Cheltenham, Maryland, which is located 15 miles southeast of downtown, Washington, D.C. On May 29, 2001, the U.S. Navy transferred the 247-acre Cheltenham facility to the Department of the Treasury, Federal Law Enforcement Training Center.

FLETC is committed to continuing the Cheltenham legacy of serving the United States and its people.

² Gordon W. Prange, Pearl Harbor: The Verdict of History, (McGraw-Hill Book Co., New York, NY), 322-323.

The Cheltenham training facility will continue to meet FLETC's mission to serve as the federal government's leader for and provider of world-class law enforcement training. The Cheltenham facility will provide experienced law enforcement professionals relevant skills and knowledge to meet their responsibilities in an ever-changing world in a safe and effective manner. The Cheltenham facility will have four new buildings and 42 renovated buildings to provide state-of-the-art classrooms and instructional technology to over 18,000 federal law enforcement officers located in the metropolitan Washington, D.C. area.

The primary mission of the FLETC Cheltenham is to provide firearms and vehicle operation requalifications and other continuing professional training. However, because of the availability of classroom space and its proximity to several prestigious universities, it is anticipated that undergraduate and graduate degree programs will be offered in law enforcement and criminal justice at the FLETC Cheltenham facility, as well as exported training from the FLETC, Glynco, GA campus. This is consistent with FLETC's goal to establish professional standards for accrediting federal law enforcement training organizations.